WATTERS · PERALTA · SPICER

LOKI

TRUTH HURTS...
ESPECIALLY WHEN
WIELDED BY

BULLSEYE

MARVEL
4
LGY#030

LOKI is the **KING OF JOTUNHEIM** and the **GOD OF STORIES.** But once upon a time, Loki was the **TRICKSTER GOD—THE GOD OF MISCHIEF, EVIL AND LIES.** And once upon that time, Loki constructed a cursed ship called ***NAGLFAR*** using the fingernails of the dead. When a pair of Frost Giants recently tried—and failed—"grand theft Naglfar," three fragments of the ship scattered across the realms.

The first piece landed in **NIDAVELLIR** and sowed chaos and civil war among the dwarves. The second piece traveled thousands of years back in time to a planet now controlled by the Kree/Skrull Empire, whose rulers—Hulkling and his consort, Wiccan—helped Loki retrieve it in the present. Now Loki must travel to Midgard for the third and final fragment—which a seedy weapons dealer named Muck Mulligan just sold to the villainous Bullseye…

LOKI

"THE LIAR"
FINALE

Dan Watters
WRITER

Germán Peralta
ARTIST

Mike Spicer
COLOR ARTIST

VC's Travis Lanham
LETTERER

Dustin Nguyen
COVER ARTIST

Stacie Zucker
PRODUCTION DESIGN

Michelle Marchese
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wil Moss
EDITOR

C.B. Cebulski
EDITOR IN CHIEF

LOKI CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY WHO DRESS UP IN STRANGE COSTUMES TO DO STRANGE AND CRIMINAL THINGS.

THERE ARE OTHERS WHO DO *NOT.*

TOM WILLARD IS OF THE LATTER. BUT HAS WORKED MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE FOR THOSE WHO DO THE FORMER.

HE HAS ROBBED BANKS. HELPED BUILD ***DEATH TRAPS.*** EVEN ALMOST GOT THE DROP ON DAREDEVIL WITH A CROWBAR ONCE ON A JOB FOR THE KINGPIN WITH ***BULLSEYE.***

AFTER--BEFORE THE COPS FOUND THEM--HE ATTEMPTED TO ***TALK*** TO BULLSEYE. HE ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ANY KIDS.

WILLARD HAS TWO. THAT'S WHY HE DOES THIS. TO PROVIDE. HE WILL GIVE UP HIS FREEDOM--HIS LIFE--TO GIVE THEM THE FUTURE HE NEVER HAD.

BULLSEYE HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN THE CONVERSATION. THAT THIS ***HENCHMAN*** DARED TO ASK ABOUT HIS LIFE. TO SMILE LIKE THEY WERE COMRADES.

IT IS THAT CONVERSATION THAT MADE BULLSEYE TRACK DOWN WILLARD AND READ TO HIM FROM ***US.***

WE ARE THE BOOK OF TRUTH--THE FINAL AND MOST TERRIBLE WEAPON FORGED FROM THE DREAD SHIP *NAGLFAR.*

AND WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU. ***ALL*** OF YOU.

IT WAS FROM US WILLARD HEARD *HIS* TRUTH. THAT HE KNEW IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS HE WAS NOT MAKING A BETTER WORLD FOR HIS CHILDREN--

--*LYING* TO HIMSELF THAT HE WAS PROVIDING, WHILE REALLY SEEKING THRILLS AND GLORY AND WONDER IN A WORLD RIFE WITH IT.

ENABLING THESE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE WORLD A MORE DANGEROUS PLACE. WHO *SCARE* HIS CHILDREN.

HIGH EXPLOSIVES DANGEROUS

PEOPLE LIKE HIS CURRENT BOSS-- THE UP-AND-COMING SUPER CRIMINAL WHO CALLS HIMSELF *MARQUIS DE SIN.*

WILLARD WAS LYING TO HIMSELF BECAUSE THE TRUTH MADE HIM *UNCOMFORTABLE.*

AND NOW THAT HE HAS FACED IT, HE FEELS SO MUCH BETTER.

BULLSEYE WAITS FOR THE GUNSHOTS TO PETER OUT BEFORE HE ENTERS.

WILLARD WAS A POOR SHOT. MANY OF THE WOUNDED ARE STILL GROANING.

BULLSEYE COULD FINISH EACH OFF WITH THE FLICK OF A FINGER--BUT INSTEAD, HE FINDS THEIR PAGE IN THE *BOOK* AND TELLS THEM THE TRUTHS THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO HIDE FROM THEMSELVES.

YOU PROBABLY DO NOT WISH TO HEAR THE DEEPEST, DARKEST SHAMES OF THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO HAPPILY WORK FOR A MAN CALLED MARQUIS DE SIN.

BELIEVE US WELL ENOUGH, THEN, TO KNOW DARK AND TERRIBLE ACTS AND DESIRES ARE UTTERED IN THIS PLACE.

SOON THE HIDEOUT RINGS WITH SCREAMS.

WE, THE DAMNED SOULS OF THE *NAGLFAR*, KNOW A LITTLE OF HEL. THIS PLACE NOW SOUNDS MUCH THE SAME.

AND BULLSEYE CONSIDERS TO HIMSELF:

IT'S A START.

HELLO! IT'S OVER NOW.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU'RE IN THE BOOK, LOKI.

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU. I WAS TALKING TO THAT PIECE OF THE NAGLFAR IN YOUR HANDS.

YOU, MIDGARDIAN, ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL.

YOU CAN'T HAVE IT. THIS BOOK IS TRUTH. PINPOINTED TRUTH THAT DESTROYS PEOPLE WITH NOTHING BUT A FEW WORDS.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO PRECISE. SO BEAUTIFUL.

"THE LIAR"

Chapter Four

DAN WATTERS.....writer
GERMÁN PERALTA.....artist
MIKE SPICER.....color artist
VC's TRAVIS LANHAM..... letterer
MICHELLE MARCHESE.....asst. editor
WIL MOSS.....editor

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO HEAR YOUR TRUTH, LOKI.

YOU HAVE SOUGHT SO LONG TO BECOME THAT WHICH YOU ARE NOT. YOU CALL YOURSELF THE *GOD OF STORIES* THESE DAYS.

YET RECENTLY, YOU VISITED NIDAVELLIR, REALM OF THE DWARVES...

"...YOU WERE TAKEN PRISONER--AND REMAINED A PRISONER, THOUGH YOU COULD HAVE FREED YOURSELF AT ANY MOMENT.

"YOU NUDGED THINGS ALONG WITH YOUR POISONED TONGUE, AND THEY ENDED IN FIRE AND DEATH.

"THERE WERE KINDER WAYS TO GO ABOUT IT. BUT YOU WERE NOT *INTERESTED* IN KINDER WAYS. ONLY IN WHAT WAS *EASIEST.*

"NOW ON NIDAVELLIR, THEY ARE LOOKING FOR NEW LANGUAGES IN WHICH TO CURSE YOU, FORGING WEAPONS WITH NAMES LIKE *LOKIKILLER* AND *TRICKSTER-MANGLER.*

"THEY'VE REALIZED, TOO LATE, WHAT YOU DID.

"THAT YOU WERE A CHILD, PULLING WINGS OFF FLIES--FOR WHAT PURPOSE?"

TO LET THINGS *PLAY OUT?* TO *TEACH LESSONS* AS THE GOD OF STORIES?

STORIES ARE CRUEL THINGS. JUST ANOTHER KIND OF LIE.

YOU ARE, AND FOREVER WILL BE, GOD OF *LIES.*

I THINK THIS MORTAL HAS JUST EXPIRED.

WHAT EMBARRASSING LIVERY TO DIE IN.

DYNA

WARNING EXPLO

DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT I SAID?

IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE BOOK DOESN'T AFFECT *YOU.*

I KNOW WHAT I AM, AND I ALWAYS HAVE.

SOUNDS LIKE A DULL WAY TO LIVE.

ANYWAY. GIVE IT TO ME.

IT'S MINE.

I'VE ASKED YOU TWICE. YOU WILL NOT LIKE WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE TO ASK A THIRD TIME.

THE MAN WHO GAVE ME THIS BOOK WAS UNAFFECTED BY IT TOO.

UNTIL I TORE OUT A FEW PAGES AND MADE SOME OF *THESE.*

TRUTH IS SO VERY HEAVY. SO VERY SHARP.

THE FIRST ONE I MADE TORE A HOLE THROUGH HIS TORSO.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GO THE *OLD-SCHOOL ROUTE*, I'VE ALWAYS FIGURED.

HMPH. SUBOPTIMAL.

DYNA

WARNING EXPL

I... THINK I JUST KILLED A GOD.

OH, YOU ARE A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL THING.

WE ARE GROWING FOND OF THIS WIELDER.

HE HAS *IMAGINATION.*

WHEN AN OLD ADVERSARY TURNS UP TO TRY TO STOP US, OUR WIELDER CONSIDERS HOW UNIVERSAL, UGLY TRUTHS CAN BE SO VERY BLINDING.

BULLSEYE, BUDDY. WE'VE GOTTA STOP MEETING LIKE THIS!

MNNF?!

HOW THEY CAN MAKE ONE ACT OUT OF CHARACTER.

HOW THEY CAN PARALYZE ONE... MAKE THEM SO VERY SUGGESTIBLE.

STOP.

HELLO TO YOU TOO, BUG.

ALTHOUGH WE'LL ADMIT, WE DIDN'T BELIEVE FOR A MOMENT THAT LOKI WAS DEAD.

YOU KNOW, I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE VEXED.

LOKI?

BUG, SIC!

SERIOUSLY. BRUTE FORCE AGAIN?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T RATHER PROVE YOUR WORTH TO THAT BOOK BY READING ME ANOTHER BEDTIME STORY?

OH, BUT I CAN. THERE IS SO MUCH MORE OF YOU IN HERE, LOKI, *KING OF JOTUNHEIM.*

I'VE BEEN READING UP.

I NOW KNOW ALL THE THINGS YOU WON'T ADMIT TO YOURSELF.

YOU HAD HOPED SO LONG TO BECOME A KING.

YOU TRIED TO TAKE THE THRONE OF ASGARD FOR YOURSELF COUNTLESS TIMES AND FAILED.

AND THEN YOU WERE GIVEN THE THRONE OF JOTUNHEIM, TO RULE OVER THOSE YOU WERE BORN AMONG.

THE REALM HAS BECOME EVEN MORE RIFE WITH RESENTMENT, DISSENT AND REVOLT SINCE YOU TOOK CHARGE...

"RECENTLY, YOU VISITED THE KREE/SKRULL EMPIRE, WHERE YOUR ALLY HULKLING HAS BEEN MADE *EMPEROR.*

"AFTER MAKING YOURSELF AT HOME IN HIS PALACE, YOU THANKED HIM FOR HIS HOSPITALITY BY TEARING THE SUN FROM THE SKY OF ONE OF HIS PLANETS.

"NOW HE IS BUSY COMFORTING HIS SUBJECTS. PLACATING THEM FROM BURNING DOWN THEIR OWN HOMES.

"THERE WERE KINDER WAYS TO GO ABOUT IT...

"...BUT YOU COULD NOT SEE THEM.

"YOU COULD NOT, AS EMPEROR HULKLING DOES, PUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS BEFORE YOUR OWN."

NOW, AS HE ATTEMPTS TO QUELL PANIC ON A COOLING PLANET RIFE WITH RIOTS, HE CURSES YOUR NAME UNDER HIS BREATH.

EVENTUALLY, THEY WILL SETTLE AND TURN THE HATRED THEY ONCE RESERVED FOR ANOTHER ON YOU.

THEY WILL BURN EFFIGIES OF YOU ON HOLIDAYS...

...AND HULKLING, THE CLOSEST THING YOU HAVE TO A FRIEND, WILL *LET* THEM.

YOU'RE NO KING, LOKI. YOU NEVER WERE, AND NEVER WILL BE.

KINGING HASN'T BEEN QUITE AS FUN AS I'D HOPED, THAT'S TRUE.

NOW. *BOOK.*

BUG. JUMP. DON'T CATCH YOURSELF.

UGH, IS HE AN AVENGER?

I FEEL LIKE THOR'S GOING TO BE MAD IF HE GOES SPLAT.

WH-WHAT?

WHERE AM--?

LOKI?

YES. I SAVED YOU!

DO YOU REMEMBER--?

DID YOU JUST TRY TO *THROW ME* OFF A *ROOFTOP*?!

OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE...

IT IS HARD TO MAKE ONE AS LOKI TRULY SUFFER...

HIS PROPENSITY FOR SHAME IS SO SMALL. HIS CAPACITY FOR SELF-DELUSION SO GREAT.

BUT HE WILL NOT STOP PURSUING US. SO WE DIG EVEN DEEPER FOR TRUTH.

I'M GETTING TIRED OF THIS.

I KNOW.

THEN GIVE ME THE BOOK.

NOT THAT...

...I KNOW WHY YOU BUILT THE NAGLFAR.

I KNOW WHY, AT THE DAWN OF TIME, YOU SET OUT TO CREATE A SHIP OF DEAD MEN'S FINGERNAILS.

OF THOSE UNBURIED, UNGROOMED SOULS.

OF THE *UNLOVED.*

OH, EVERYONE KNOWS WHY I DID THAT. TO SAIL AGAINST THE GODS AT RAGNAROK.

IT'S A WHOLE PROPHECY THING.

DO THEY? SHALL I READ IT TO YOU?

NO.

ENOUGH.

TOE-TO-TOE WITH A GOD. THIS WILL MAKE A HELL OF A STORY, EVEN IF IT'S A SHRIMPY, WEASELLY GOD OF--

UNH!

IT IS SO VERY RARE FOR LOKI TO RESORT TO BLOODYING HIS OWN HANDS.

BUT TRUTHFULLY, THE BLOOD OF FROST GIANTS RUNS IN HIS VEINS.

HE WAS TRAINED BY THE SAME CHAMPIONS WHO TAUGHT THOR TO FIGHT...AND HE IS FORTIFIED BY ALL MANNER OF DREAD MAGICS.

HE JUST DOESN'T *LIKE* TO DO IT.

WE MUST HAVE TRULY HIT A NERVE.

THE TRUTH

HEH!

IT WON REALLY, DIDN'T IT? THE BOOK.

IT *HURT* YOU.

HEH. IT WON...

OH, BUUULLSEYE.

LOKI GAVE ME THE SLIP, SO I FOLLOWED THE GREEN LIGHTS IN THE SKY TO FIND HIM...BUT EVEN BETTER, HERE *YOU* ARE!

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN, SHALL WE?

JOTUNHEIM.

LOKI'S PALACE.

KING LOKI!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

THE FROOM CLAN...THEY FORCED THE DOORS.

BUT THEY COULDN'T AGREE ON WHO AMONG THEM SHOULD TAKE YOUR THRONE.

SO AFTER A FEW OF THEM KILLED EACH OTHER, THEY THOUGHT IT WAS FAIREST...UH...

THEY...

OH YES. YES, I SEE.

THANK YOU, DRRF. THAT'LL BE ALL.

BUT--

BUT...

YOU THINK I CAN'T ADMIT WHY I MADE YOU?

I'M THE GOD OF STORIES. I KNOW WHAT I AM.

THE *UNLOVED.* THE *UNWANTED.* I TOOK YOU AND MADE YOU POWERFUL. MADE YOU USEFUL AND VIOLENT.

YOU WERE MY MASTERPIECE. BUT YOU WEREN'T A WEAPON.

I MADE YOU JUST LIKE ME.

TO SEE MYSELF REFLECTED.

YOU WERE *ART.*

VERY WELL THEN. AS YOU SAID, SO WE SHALL BE.

LOKI THE CURSED.

LOKI THE UNLOVED.

LOKI THE LIAR.

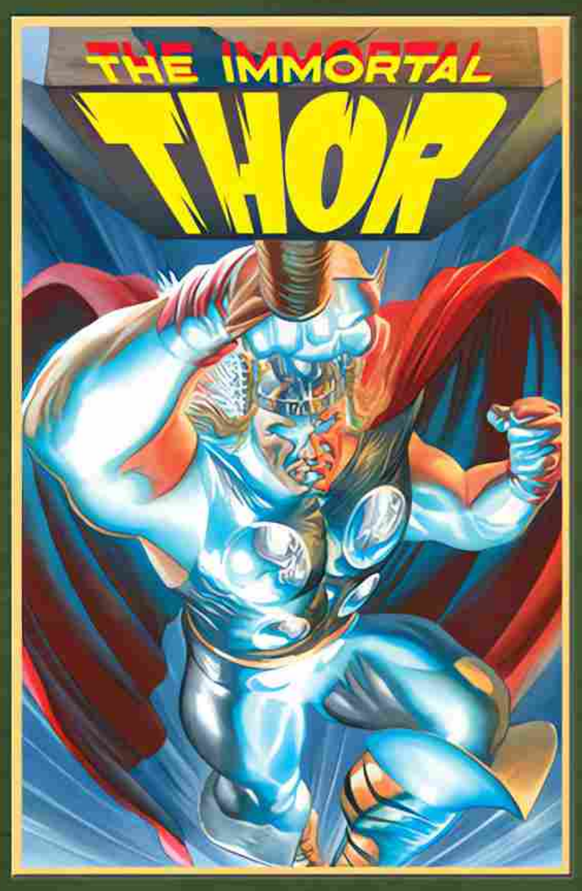
THE END.

This miniseries may be over, but the journey Loki has just begun will continue in

IMMORTAL THOR #2!

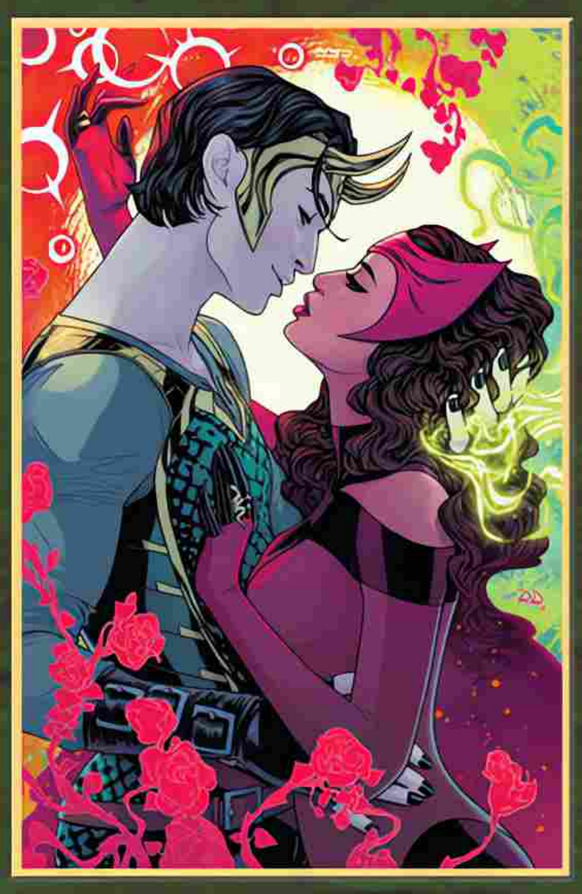
Want to see more Loki? Then we want to hear from you! Write us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and mark your letters **"OKAY TO PRINT"**!

AND DON'T MISS...



IMMORTAL THOR #1
BY AL EWING AND MÁRTIN CÓCCOLO
ON SALE NOW

ALLIGATOR LOKI #1
BY ALYSSA WONG AND BOB QUINN
ON SALE NOW



SCARLET WITCH #8
BY STEVE ORLANDO AND LORENZO TAMMETTA
ON SALE NOW